

TS-111927

**APPLICANT STATEMENT**

(To be completed by the individual requesting operating authority)

Applicant Name:

Sean McNamara/dba-Bellingham Water  
Taxi

Application Docket No.:

TS-111927

**THE APPLICATION** What authority are you applying for? Include any amendments.  
Bellingham to Orcas island with Flag Stops: Eliza, Vendovi, Sinclair,  
Cypress, Obstruction Pass, Olga, Lopez, and Blakely.

**SUPPORT STATEMENT**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

**THE TRANSPORTATION NEED** Briefly describe the transportation service that you need and that the application could provide to you or your business/organization if this request for operating authority is granted.

I am the owner and operator of Gato Verde Adventure Sailing School LLC. The business has been operating out of Bellingham since 2004. I and my customers have periodic need for foot ferry service between Bellingham and the surrounding islands. There has been minimal foot service out of Bellingham for many years. Summer 2010, Island Commuter stopped the Memorial Day- Labor Day regular, tourist oriented, service between Bellingham and San Juan Island with flag stops changing to weekends & holidays only. In 2011 they decreased service further to just 9 days per year forcing all foot traffic through Anacortes via the state ferries and water taxi's. Bellingham is long overdue for simple, regular, year-round foot ferry service and the companies with the vessels and permits are not providing that service.

Captain McNamara operated a viable water taxi out of Bellingham for many years. He had a loyal customer base and I believe he understands the market and will be able to provide the services requested in this permit.

Are your transportation needs being met now? Yes \_\_\_ No X If not, explain problems you have experienced.

There is no regularly scheduled foot ferry service available out of Bellingham for small groups or individuals. Because of this it can take over 8 hours for someone to get from Orcas to Bellingham without a car.

If the request is denied, would it have any affect on you or your business/organization:

Yes X No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain.

If the request was denied it would limit my customer's options for travel within the islands. By granting the request, my customers (and myself) would have much greater flexibility for transportation within the islands. A greater benefit of granting this application would be for Bellingham and the Islands. It would provide reasonably priced regular year-round service that has not been available for many years. I also do not think granting this application would have a major negative impact on the existing permit holders business since they have chosen to cut back their service so dramatically.

**RECEIVED**

JAN 30 2012

WASH. UT. &amp; TP. COMM

**VERIFICATION**

(To be completed by the individual or business/organization supporting the request for operating authority)

Name and Title: Captain Todd Andrew Shuster

Business/Organization: Gato Verde Adventure Sailing School LLC

Street/Mailing Address: 1842 Governor Rd

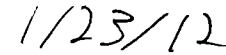
City, State, Zip Code: Bellingham, WA 98229

Telephone Number: 360-220-3215 Fax Number: 360-733-6028 (call first)

*I understand that this information is being given as the basis for a grant of operating authority by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, an agency of the state of Washington. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the information contained in this statement is true and correct.*

Todd A. Shuster  
PRINT NAME

  
SIGNATURE

  
DATE

**IMPORTANT!!!**

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS SO YOUR APPLICATION MAY BE PROCESSED**

Washington law allows the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to grant operating authority only when it is required by the present or future public convenience and necessity. Even though your application is not protested, you need one or more statements from persons proving that your services are needed, otherwise your application will be denied.

When the form is completed by a person supporting your application, send it to the WUTC at the address below. If you desire, a hearing can be scheduled for your witness to appear in support of your application.

Support statements should reach the WUTC **WITHIN 30 DAYS** or the APPLICATION MAY BE DISMISSED. We also suggest that you keep a copy of each statement.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, contact Licensing Services (360) 664-1222.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Licensing Services  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250